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June 12, 2018

Martha Copestake | MFC, BScFE
Forester - Planning
Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development
City of Ottawa

CC. Daniel Buckles, Board of Champlain Park Community Association and member of Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES).

Dear Ms Copestake:

As University of Ottawa Plant Scientists, we are writing to support the (Ottawa) Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES) document on "rethinking Ottawa's trees bylaws" . We are alarmed by the rapid decline of the urban tree canopy in Ottawa and wish to draw attention to the consequences of the ongoing situation. In the current rapidly changing climate, mature trees mitigate problems by evaporating a massive amount of water and reducing local temperatures. They substantially reduce flooding during high rainfall events and generally cleanse the atmosphere of pollutants. The City of Ottawa's ineffective tree bylaw has allowed the unchecked decline of urban trees by developers and others due to lack of enforceable regulation and low priority placed on trees. The consequences of not adjusting our bylaws and enforcement are extensive property damage due to flooding , and a decline in quality of life and health for residents due to high temperatures and pollutants. We urge the Mayor and councillors to consider the recommendation of CAFES and act quickly.

Sincerely

John Thor Arnason, PhD
Distinguished Professor

Julian Starr, PhD.
Associate Professor

Cory Harris, PhD.
Assistant Professor